

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1689

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT TO BERLIN -
GAUS-NIER MEETING

REF: USBER 1835

1. IN SEPTEMBER 7 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE) PROVIDED ALLIES WITH FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SEPTEMBER 2 MEETING IN EAST BERLIN BETWEEN FRG PERMREP GAUS AND GDR DEPFONMIN NIER. AS NOTED REFTTEL, GAUS PROTESTED THE GDR REFUSAL ON AUGUST 13 TO ALLOW STERNFAHRT TRAVELLERS TO USE THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO BERLIN. IN ADDITION TO HIS ORAL STATEMENT, GAUS LEFT A PROTEST NOTE WITH NIER. HENZE ALSO DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF THE FRG NOTE. (COPIES POUCHED TO EUR/CE AND USBER.)

2. ACCORDING TO HENZE, NIER LISTENED TO GAUS' STATEMENT AND THEN STRONGLY REFUTED THE FRG PROTEST. NIER SAID THAT, IN FACT, IT WAS THE GDR WHICH HAD REASON TO
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COMPLAIN. NIER ADDED THAT "THE ACTIVITIES OF CRIMINAL

GANGS AND ORGANIZATIONS TRADING IN HUMAN BEINGS" ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES CONSTITUTED MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES. THE FRG HAD DONE NOTHING TO PREVENT SUCH ACTIVITIES.

3. CONCERNING THE TURNBACK OF THE STERNFAHRT TRAVELLERS, NIER REPEATED THE GDR POSITION THAT THERE WAS SUFFICIENT REASON TO SUSPECT MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES. THE GDR ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN IN ORDER TO PREVENT INCIDENTS ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES. THUS, THE GDR HAD ACTED TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR THE FRG-GDR TRANSIT AGREEMENT. THE GDR HAD INFORMED THE FRG ACCORDINGLY OF ITS SUSPICION AND HAD SUBMITTED PROOF TO SUPPORT ITS ACTION IN THE TRANSIT COMMISSION.

4. NIER CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE GDR WOULD CONTINUE TO STAND UP FOR STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING TRANSIT TRAFFIC. THE BASIC AIM OF THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT IS TO ENSURE PEACEFUL TRANSIT. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE COULD TESTIFY TO THAT FACT THEMSELVES EACH DAY.

5. HENZE REPORTED THAT THE TONE OF THE MEETING WAS QUITE RELAXED WITHOUT ANY TENSION OR SHARPNESS DESPITE THE LANGUAGE IN PARA 2. NIER'S FINAL REMARK WAS THAT THE GDR REGARDS THE CASE AS CLOSED AND IS NOT INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING IT FURTHER. HENZE SAW THIS AS BUT ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE GDR WANTS TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON THE AFFAIR.
HILLENBRAND

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